

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report: Mississippi 2010 Swimming Season

May 2011

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters.

The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the State of Mississippi for the 2010 swimming season.

Notification actions directly attributable to the oil spill that resulted from the April 20, 2010 explosion on the BP leased Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling platform are not included in the summary statistics presented in this report. A total of 1,955 beach days at 16 monitored beaches had oil-related notification actions during the 2010 swimming season.



Figure 1. Mississippi coastal counties.

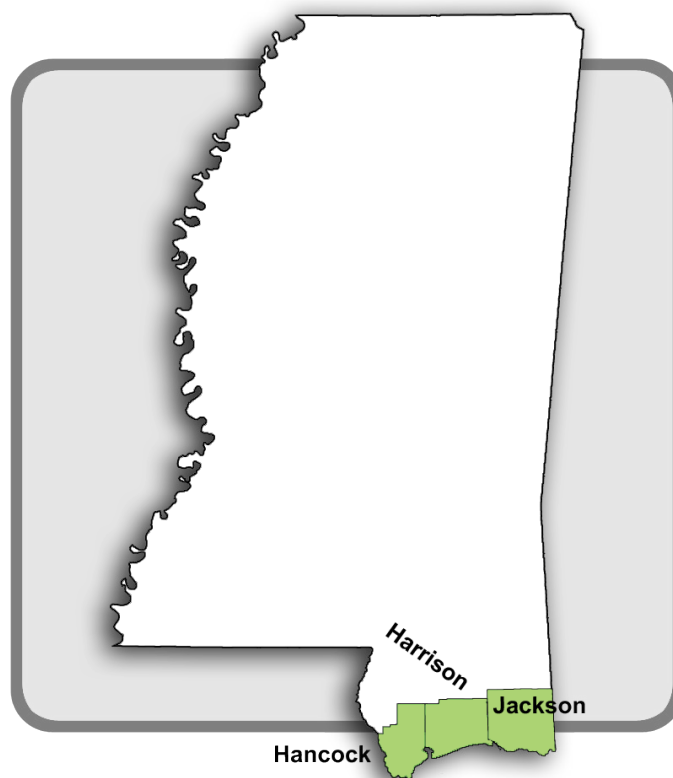


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2010.

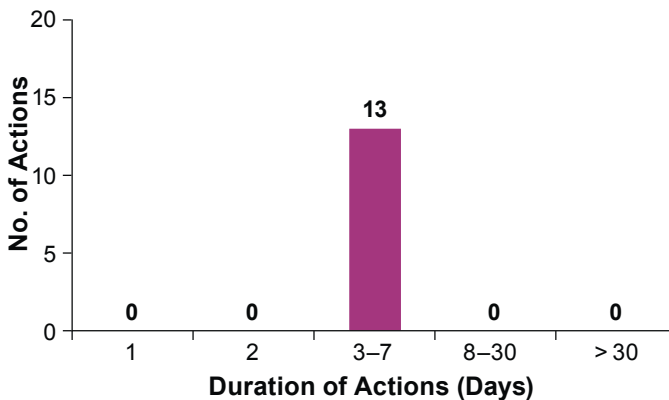
County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
HANCOCK	4	4	0
HARRISON	13	13	0
JACKSON	5	5	0
TOTALS	22	22	0

2010 Summary Results

How many notification actions were reported and how long were they?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Mississippi issues a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the ocean water. A total of 10 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

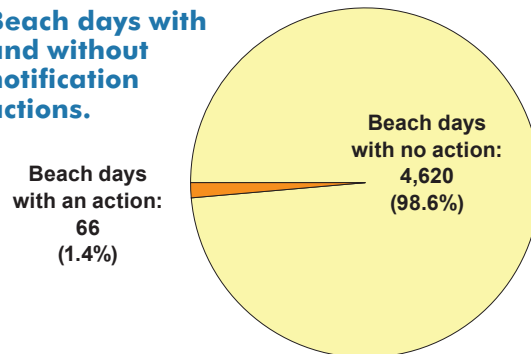
Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.



What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Mississippi's 2010 swimming season, actions were reported about one percent of the time (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.



How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2010 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008–2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	22	20	22
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	15	8	10
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	68%	40%	46%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	5%	2%	1%

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of Mississippi's investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources.

For More Information

For general information about beaches:

www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in Mississippi:

www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (22 beaches).

